the growth of the economy, growth of Labour Force and special policy interventions for creation of employment opportunities.

Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana

854. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana (KSSSY) in the country to provide social security to agricultural workers;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Yojana; and

(c) the status of the Yojana in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government had launched 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana - 2001' to provide social security to the landless agricultural workers. The scheme is being implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). It envisages the provision of life-cum-accident insurance, money back, pension and superannuation benefits.

Agricultural workers between the age of 18 to 50 years are eligible for coverage under the Scheme. The agricultural worker is required to contribute Rs. 1/- per day and Government's contribution is Rs. 2/- per day per beneficiary. Initially, the scheme is being implemented in 50 selected districts covering 10 lakh agricultural worker 20000 agricultural workers from each district over a period of three years.

(c) 7473 agricultural workers have been covered under the scheme in Andhra Pradesh as on 21.2.2002.

Employment scenario in Punjab

†855. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the National Sample Survey in respect of employment situation prevailing in Punjab during the years 1999-2000, 2001 and 2001-2002;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the reasons for increase in the rate of unemployment especially amongst the rural youth; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to increase employment opportunities for rural youths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As per the latest National Sample Survey carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the unemployment rate as per the Usual Status Approach in Punjab during 1999-2000 was 2.6% and 3.2% of the labour force in rural and urban areas respectively. The figures for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are not available since no survey has been carried out.

(b) The increase in the rate of unemployment in rural areas was mainly because the rural economy did not grow sufficiently to absorb the new entrants to the labour force and the backlog of the unemployed.

(c) The Ninth Plan has accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The Plan had focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterized by higher rates of unemployment and under-employment. The approach to the 10th Plan has recognized the importance of providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of 10th Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities. This will help in providing employment to the rural youth in Punjab as well.

Labour Force

856. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to uplift and take care of the well-being of the vast labour force of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would consider constructing independent hospitals in labour-dominated places like Sivakasi and other industrialised centres like Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu?